

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1076

By Helton

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the staff of Morning Pointe of Chattanooga at Shallowford and The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence Chattanooga for their exemplary care of their residents following the April 12, 2020, tornado.

WHEREAS, on the evening of April 12, 2020, an EF-3 tornado ripped through Chattanooga, causing catastrophic damage to two senior communities, Morning Pointe of Chattanooga at Shallowford and The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Morning Pointe staff remained calm as they worked to protect and shelter their 130 senior residents during the Easter night tornado; residents were immediately summoned to the lobby areas when the tornado had passed, and officials and staff worked through the night to identify all residents, assess medical conditions, and evacuate residents from both buildings; and

WHEREAS, all staff and residents were accounted for, and miraculously, there were no deaths or major injuries reported, although some residents were transported to an area hospital for evaluation; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the tornado, Morning Pointe officials and staff worked with staff from their corporate office, Independent Healthcare Properties LLC, as well as Hamilton County emergency medical response teams and the Chattanooga fire and police departments to relocate all residents; CARTA buses were summoned to transport mobile residents in the early morning hours to area hotels, with Elmcroft Senior Living stepping in to transport handicapped patients; and

WHEREAS, Morning Pointe staff diligently rose to the occasion and met every challenge during what was described as "a catastrophe within a catastrophe" and "a major balancing act," as they cared for and protected residents during the tornado while simultaneously protecting them from COVID-19 and providing residents with necessary health care; and

WHEREAS, The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence Chattanooga sustained more damage than the assisted living facility, with blown-out windows, heavy roof and rain damage, and parts of the exterior sheared off; both facilities will be uninhabitable for the foreseeable future as crews work to repair and restore the buildings; and

WHEREAS, all Morning Pointe residents have been moved to other area Morning Pointe or competitor facilities or released into the care of their families while the Shallowford Road locations are rebuilt, and approximately 100 staff members are being offered positions at other Morning Pointe locations in the Chattanooga area; and

WHEREAS, Easter Sunday 2020 will long be remembered for the devastating tornado, the more than 130 lives spared, and the heroism of the staff at Morning Pointe of Chattanooga at Shallowford and The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence Chattanooga, proving that they are, indeed, "Morning Pointe strong"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the staff of Morning Pointe of Chattanooga at Shallowford and The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence Chattanooga for their exemplary care of their residents following the April 12, 2020, tornado and extend our gratitude for their heroic efforts to ensure the safety of each senior Tennessean.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.